from outside regions, monitoring of ground water, and allowing temporary mining of ground water, monitoring water level in reservoirs and strict control on releases. The medium-term measures include rainwater harvesting and watershed management; and water management in irrigated agriculture. The long-term measures include planning and creation of surface water storage for drought mitigation. In addition, in order to effectively tackle the problems of floods & droughts, the Ministry of Water Resoures, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in 1980 which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous societry to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the national perspective for preparation of the feastbility reports and has completed feasibility reports of 8 links.

Expenditure on watershed programme in Kashmir

1025. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that enormous amount of money has been invested in Kashmir under watershed development programme; and

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that the funds have been misused and misappropriated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Department of Land Resources under the Ministry of Rural Development is administering two area development programme *viz.* Drought-Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP). These programmes are implemented in pre-identified areas on watershed basis and aim at drought proofing and controlling desertification by regeneration of depleted natural resource base. Both these programmes are under implementation in Jammu & Kashmir. The watershed approach has been adopted since 1995-96. The number of projects sanctioned and the quantum of funds released so far to the State of Jammu and Kashmir since 1995-96 is as under:

Programme	No. of projects sanctioned From 1995-96 till date	Funds released (Rs. in Lakhs)
Desert Development Programme (DDP)	536	6199.63
Drought-Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)	274	1718.86

These funds are to be utilized for watershed development programmes in accordance with the provisions contained in the Guidance for Watershed Development.

(b) There is no report regarding misuse and misappropriation of funds.

Connectivity of Ganga river at Farrakha

1026. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that experts and engineers have observed that the connectivity on the Ganga river at Farrakha which joins North and South Bengal is in an extremely dilapidated condition which could give way any time;

(b) if so, whether Government have called for any special report from their official experts in the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what immediate steps are proposed to be taken in this regard so as to prevent any mishap or accident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Farrakka Barrage Project headed by Member (D and R), Central Water Commission, New Delhi and consisting of experts drawn from various organizations have visited the Project site during February, 2003 and have found that there is no danger to the bridge and the barrage. Adequate protection measure in the upstream and downstream of the barrage are taken every year as per the advice of the TAC, Farrakka Barrage Project to ensure the safety of the Project.